

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 OIC-02 /153 W

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R 191700Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 825

UNCLAS GENEVA 1117

DEPARTMENT PASS STR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJECT: MTN: GROUP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

1. THE GATT SECRETARIAT HAS DEVELOPED SOME TENTATIVE IDEAS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP. THIS GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO MEET ON MARCH 10 IN THE MORNING. ACTION REQUESTED: DELEGATION WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON THE SECRETARIAT'S IDEAS ASAP.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE GATT SECRETARIAT'S TENTATIVE AND INFORMAL PAPER:

QUOTE: THE GROUP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS SHOULD AGREE TO ORGANIZE ITS WORK IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

(I) DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE INVITED TO SUBMIT LISTS OF REQUESTS TO COUNTRIES IN WHOSE MARKETS THEY HAVE AN INTEREST AS EXPORTERS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS INDICATING THE ITEMS FOR WHICH THEY WOULD WISH TO SECURE CONCESSIONS AND THE NATURE OF THE CONCESSION OR CONCESSIONS BEING SOUGHT. REQUESTS FOR CONCESSIONS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED BY AN UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREED DATE ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

COULD BE MADE AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED.

(II) COPIES OF THE REQUEST LISTS WOULD BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARIAT WHICH WOULD MAKE SUCH LIST AVAILABLE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

(III) ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR THE TABLING AND CIRCULATION OF OFFERS ACCORDING TO DATES TO BE DETERMINED HAVING REGARD TO THE REQUESTS MADE AND ANY CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THESE REQUESTS.

(IV) THE SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LISTS AND THE MAKING OF OFFERS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT PREJUDICE AS TO WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A TROPICAL PRODUCT.

(V) ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR APPROPRIATE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE REQUEST LISTS, AND WHEN OFFERS ARE MADE, BETWEEN THE IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES CONCERNED, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE COUNTRIES MAKING REQUESTS ON THE SAME ITEMS FROM JOINTLY PARTICIPATING IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS.

(VI) THE GROUP WILL KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING SUCH MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AS WOULD FACILITATE THE MAXIMIZATION OF OFFERS OF THE BASIC OF REQUEST LISTS. THIS COULD COVER, INTER ALIA, QUESTIONS RELATING TO NON-TARIFF MEASURES WHICH ARE FOUND NOT TO LEND THEMSELVES TO NEGOTIATIONS ON A PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT BASIS AND WHICH MAY NEED TO BE TAKEN UP IN THE CONTEXT OF SOLUTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE WORKED OUT IN REGARD TO SUCH MEASURES ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

(VII) THE GROUP WILL EXAMINE PROBLEMS AFFECTING TRADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS WHICH REQUIRE MULTILATERAL ACTION WITH A VIEW TO WORKING OUT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS AND SOLUTIONS.

(VIII) THE GROUP WILL REPORT PERIODICALLY TO THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE ON PROGRESS MADE AS WELL AS ON ANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WHICH THE GROUP OR MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MAY BE FACING SO THAT THE TNC MAY EXAMINE ANY FURTHER ACTION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT, INTER ALIA, DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AS A WHOLE, AS WELL AS THE DESIRABILITY OF CONCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO TROPICAL PRODUCTS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE HAVING REGARD TO THE PRIORITY GIVEN TO THIS SECTOR IN THE TOKYO DECLARATION. END QUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA01117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750059-1099
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750233/aaaabcyo.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN: GROUP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006